

The Brethren Evangelist

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ASHLAND, Ohio, June 26, 1889.

The Johnstown Church.

Some have been puzzling our brother, J. B. Rittgers, who is now soliciting donations to repair the Johnstown church, with the statement made by Bro. J. L. Kimmel, who estimated the cost of repairs at \$500, which is about half what Bro. Rittgers represents the cost will be. Of course it would not be right to represent that the cost will be twice as much as it actually will be. Our knowledge of the situation makes us believe that Bro. Kimmel did not put the estimate sufficiently high. The cost, we feel sure, will not fall much short of \$1000, if we can properly imagine the damage. As we anticipated such criticisms as Bro. Rittgers has encountered, we explained two weeks ago, that the estimate might seem high, as in some localities where the members furnished the lumber free, and did half of the work, a good church could be built. But let it not be forgotten that the Johnstown church is a large brick structure, and cost, when originally built, between \$12,000 and \$13,000, which they purchased second hand. Then, in that city, the cost of material, especially at this time, is immensely high, wages are high, and the brethren there are absolutely poverty stricken—houses gone, furniture gone, clothing gone, all gone but life, and some of that, too.

We hope that none of our brethren will allow the devil to insinuate his contemptible advice in this business, but give and give liberally. Our churches ought to give \$2000 to the brethren at Johnstown, at least, and what is not needed for the church will do something toward helping their poor and worthy pastor, J. B. Rittgers, who lost all his library and household goods—all he had but the clothes on his back.

Brethren Dan. Crofford, Adams, Replogle, Benshoff and others, who will have the handling of the donations in repairing the church, are as true and honest as any men who breathe God's free air, and do not be afraid that the most will not be made of your charity.

The Circular Distributed at A. M.

We print elsewhere a circular, which was no doubt written by some one who is very familiar with the Conservative church. There is no one in the Brethren

church who has such an extensive familiarity with the inside doings of that church. It is rather out of our line to publish such matter, but the composition is so calm in tone, and so true, that it is given place. We know too well that the old church is honeycombed with a class of men who are laughing within themselves about how they are working those old fellows around, and undermining them. At no distant day, they will scoop in Annual Meeting and give the old war-horses a rest.

There are many in the Conservative ranks who are closely watching our movements, to see whether we will maintain clean, gospel principles, and when satisfactory evidence is once shown them, they will unite with us in our work. Let us plant our standard by the gospel ship, to forever remain.

The Amendment in Pa.

The Prohibition Amendment was defeated in Pennsylvania, last week, by an overwhelming majority. The machinery of both the leading political parties was used, with the liquor interest to defeat it. Money was used lavishly and men were bought outright to defeat the will of the people. We wonder how Christian men will hereafter be able to become the supporters of political leaders who thus betrayed their interests and the homes of many to the liquor interests. We wonder how Christian men will hereafter be able to excuse fellowship with the enemies of sound government, the integrity of the homes of that state and the maintenance of justice and virtue?

Our Book says, have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.

Will You Do It?

We want every reader to aid us in circulating the EVANGELIST. We offer you an elegant premium, on each subscriber for the remainder of the year at 60 cents.

You need have no fears now that the EVANGELIST will contain objectionable contentions between brethren, nor abuse of other denominations. This number is the end of the first six months of 1889, and during the remainder of the year we mean to be lovely.

Should enemies of the truth make it necessary to get harsh, we will start a little paper for that purpose and call it *The Sharp Sword*.

Bro. Copp and Another Church Weekly.

Bro. Geo. A. Copp has a few things to say about the advisability of publishing a new paper in the interests of the Brethren. Several have alluded to this subject heretofore in an incidental way, but we thought that little good would accrue from such allusions, and they were therefore not published.

Bro. Copp makes a direct issue of the subject, and we have not taken the liberty to expunge that part of his correspondence, and it is proper and expedient that we add a few comments.

On the whole we could torture our readers with a long line of complaints, were we disposed to so act. There has been a long line of misrepresentation and inconsistent action toward the

EVANGELIST. We dare say that any fair and impartial Christian man, who will get the actual and true facts, will vindicate our action, in the main. We never claimed to be anything more than ordinary men, and humble men at that, and our deeds are not above criticism; but impossibilities we can not do, dishonest, unfair and impartial things we do not want to do, and willful, malicious things we will not do.

Firstly. We have a constituency difficult to serve. Our organization was founded upon the broad platform of gospel, congregational church government. Under this principle, several of the denominations of Brethren gathered in a fraternity for ecclesiastical purposes. All of these elements have just and equal claims upon the columns of this paper. These different elements held to practices and systems of church polity by which they had stood and which they had vindicated through much abuse and persecution, and as a natural result, there was a vast difference in expression. Others have repudiated their own public profession of principles and have undertaken to force others to forego their conscientious conviction, or suffer such castigation as might be administered, instead of supporting the gospel-alone polity and the congregational principle. The EVANGELIST could not be controlled in the advocacy of such a course.

There is no law which says that no one shall publish another paper in the interests of the Brethren, but one thing is sure, whoever does so will consume his money in a way that will not be of much credit to himself or anything, under the circumstances. We have extended every consideration possible to every honorable and just claim. Any rash, impartial course on our part would have rent asunder our Brotherhood before this time. The wise and prudent men in the several bodies have seen the embarrassing circumstances under which we have patiently toiled, and have sympathized with us and given us their support and influence.

Before we were connected with this paper, it was sinking money beyond even the interest upon the money invested. The year preceding its passage into its present control, about five hundred subscribers had to be pledged, above the regular list, to sustain its publication, and even then the manager sustained considerable loss. One party, now interested financially, had lost over five thousand dollars in this plant before we had any connection with it, and now we assert and can prove by figures that won't lie, that no man can publish a weekly of the size and character of the EVANGELIST, for the Brethren church, without making great sacrifice either in money or labor. This, men of experience know, and those who desired to relieve us, undertook to load it on the church, and make it bear the burden. As a church organ published by the church, it would grind from \$1000 to \$1500 a year out of the Brotherhood above the receipts.

Since the first year of our connection there has been no financial loss, above the investment interest, which is due to the fact that one person of unusual ver-

satility of habits of work has filled the office, as best he could, of editor, book-keeper, foreman, pressman and manager—a life full of hard, unremitting toil, anxiety and cares. The failure of crops and the poverty of our brethren in the West and South has made the prospects poorer than they were years ago. These are the conditions as they actually now exist, and if any one wants to buy this business and the EVANGELIST, for themselves or for any one else, we want them to act intelligently. We do not want to sell a crippled horse for a sound; but this business and this paper is for sale, at a great sacrifice, and any one can purchase it with our goodwill and all complete.

In the meantime we shall go about our business as usual, and defend Gospel Christianity, and gospel, congregational church government. We have no sympathy with the impudence and contempt of any individual or church which seeks to force its own dogmas or creeds upon other individuals or churches. If any one establishes an opposition paper upon prejudice developed by misrepresentation, and deceitful practices, there will be sad consequences.

To censure us for the alleged defects of the EVANGELIST, Bro. Copp writes most truly. Our columns have always been open and anxious for articles upon the teaching of our churches, which is generally accepted—faith, repentance, baptism, the Supper, washing feet, the salutation, non-conformity, and the strength, beauty, advantage and power of congregational church government, upon brotherly love, charity, kindness, peace, liberality, virtue, long-suffering, patience, temperance and honesty.

On the soul question we have practiced no hypocrisy or deceit. When we were made fully conscious that there was a dislike of the discussion, it was ruled out of the paper, because we regarded it a subject that did not concern the work of the churches. Accordingly, as a private individual, Eld. Swihart wrote his tract on the subject, and as a matter of business we published it. Thereupon complaint was made, and the issue was again forced into the paper, against our desire, even, although we agreed to print and publish at our own expense, a tract of twenty pages on the other side of the subject.

We earnestly desire to live and labor in union, to destroy the works of the devil; and the anxiety of our heart is to do all we can to build up a gospel church, with a gospel doctrine, with gospel government, and without contamination of priest-craft, popish rule, hierarchal domineering. Lord grant us strength to keep thy commandments and abide in thy love.

Furthermore, we have repeatedly said in private, and now say it in public, that we will turn the editorial department of the EVANGELIST over to any one who will act in harmony with the declarations of the Ashland and Dayton Conventions, who will perform the duties or engage an editor and pay him for his services. The business will pay no money for such service now, and if any one has money he wishes to get rid of we shall be only too glad to open for him an easy way to do it.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Prohibition movement in the United States will eventually, under the hand of God, prove a great tidal wave of reform which will take the curse from the land, and prepare it for the New Era now approaching.

Reports from Kansas say that another dam bursted, and Uniontown, Kansas, has been swept away. The place is said to contain about six hundred inhabitants, and six lives were lost, and probably many more. These are certainly times of trouble.

Bro. Dr. V. M. Reichards, in his comments on the S. S. Lesson, speaks very positively in favor of the old-time power of Christians. With him we believe that it is possible to have the primitive faith of Christians, and with it goes the primitive power also. If men had the old faith they could perform the miracles also promised to follow the works of the faithful.

There has been some concern about the relation of this nation to Germany and England, on the question of governing the Samoan Island. A treaty has been signed, and now that subject is peacefully disposed of. Why should not individuals always be able to agree and promote peace?

We notice with much satisfaction that a general movement against Jesuitism is being inaugurated in Canada. That society, having no higher aim than to support the Pope's claims to temporal power, deserves to be suppressed in this country, Canada, and all other nations.

Bro. Christner gives his reasons for changing his church relations, in a very extended article this week. There are many excellent points to be found in it.

The N. Y. P. & O. will sell excursion tickets to all points on its line, at one fare for round trip. Tickets will be on sale July 3rd and 4th, good for return to include July 5th.

Miami Valley Items.

Bro. Josiah Keim and wife visited us, on their way from the Convention, and I do not know of a pleasanter time of my life than that which I spent in his company.

He preached for us on last Sunday at Miamisburg and Bear Creek. His discourse breathed such a Christian spirit that few will easily forget them.

Bro. Rittgers of Johnstown, had sent us an appointment, but as Miamisburg was so far away, and it was a time that kept our regular attendants very busy during the week, we made bold to take up the needed collection, which amounted to \$12.00. On Wednesday evening, he entertained a fair congregation at Bear Creek with his experience at the Johnstown flood. The collection was over \$28.00.

On last Wednesday week we accompanied brother and sister Keim to the Zimmerman church love feast. We were glad to get acquainted with that plucky little congregation in their neat little church. Bro. Brown has told us so much about this place that I must forbear least I spoil what he has said. We found the church and people to be what he represented them, and too much cannot be said of their perseverance and zeal. May the Lord bless them.

EDWARD MASON.

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FOR THE
Johnstown Horror,
OR
Valley of Death.

A book of over 500 pages, fully illustrated. The outfit sent postage paid on receipt of 40 cents. Special inducements to agents. Send for outfit. Outfit and complete copy of the work sent postage paid for \$2.00.

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